

Platt

NATIONAL PARK

Arbuckle

RECREATION AREA • OKLAHOMA

PLATT NATIONAL PARK

An oasis of woodlands in the prairie, Platt National Park is a refreshing miniature of a broad sweep of nature: wooded valleys, rolling hills, mineral- and fresh-water springs, and sparkling streams.

At the source of Travertine Creek in the east end of the park are Buffalo and Antelope Springs, the two large fresh-water springs in the park. Normally these springs have a combined flow of several million gallons of water a day; but during prolonged dry periods, they may stop flowing. At such time, Travertine Creek will also be dry.

Of the many cold mineral-water springs in the park, most can be classified broadly as sulphur springs, and three as bromide springs. Pavilion Springs, Hillside Spring, and Black Sulphur Spring are in the central part of the park near the main entrance. Bromide Spring and Medicine Spring are in the western part of the park, issuing from the base of Bromide Hill. Water from these two springs and sulphur water are dispensed at Bromide Pavilion. *While the spring waters are for the use of all visitors, they should not be taken in quantity except on the advice of a physician.* The National Park Service facilitates the use of the springs only by protecting and maintaining them according to the best possible standards; it makes no claim as to the medicinal value of the mineral waters.

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

Your first stop within the park should be at the museum, which contains exhibits on the history and natural history of the park. A park naturalist is on duty from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (to 5 p.m. in winter) to answer your questions and interpret the features of the area.

The following activities are conducted in summer to add to your knowledge and enjoyment of the park:

Nature walk. Every morning a park naturalist leads a walk from the museum to the top of Bromide Hill, identifying plants, wildlife, and other objects of interest.

Aquatic nature walk. A naturalist leads a wading trip each day up a short section of Rock Creek, interpreting the plant-and-animal community.

Children's program. A nature program for children is held every day.

Campfire programs. Park naturalists present illustrated talks about the park in the amphitheater near the main entrance and in the campfire circles in Rock Creek and Cold Spring Campgrounds. Weekly schedules, showing time and subjects, are posted at the museum, Bromide Pavilion, the ranger station, and the campgrounds.



Arbuckle Recreation Area



Platt National Park

The Travertine Nature Center, a new interpretive facility, is under construction in the eastern end of the park. When completed, early in 1969, it will be the focal point of interpretive activities for both the park and Arbuckle Recreation Area.

CAMPING AND PICNICKING

The three campgrounds contain a total of 206 equipped campsites. Camping is limited to 30 days a calendar year and 14 days in summer. Reservations cannot be made.

Tables and fireplaces for picnicking have been placed throughout the park.

Fires should be built only in fireplaces. Always extinguish them with water before leaving. Be sure that matches and cigarettes are entirely out before disposing of them.

Firearms are prohibited unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use.

Pets must be kept under physical control. In the interest of sanitation, they may not be taken into pavilions or near pools or springs.

Park features—wildflowers, trees, animals, and rocks and minerals—are to be left in place and undisturbed, so that others may enjoy them.

ARBUCKLE RECREATION AREA

The Arbuckle Recreation Area is in the Arbuckle Mountains, about 8 miles southwest of Platt National Park. The region consists of low, rolling hills rising to 1,450 feet above sea level, some 500 to 700 feet above the surrounding prairies. Springs, clear-running streams, rocky bluffs, grassy ridges, and wooded hillsides combine pleasantly to give this place its distinctive character amid the nearly level plains that surround the Arbuckle Uplift.

In 1962, Congress authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to construct the Arbuckle Dam. The National Park Service assumed responsibility in 1965 for administering recreational use of the land and water areas of the project, and, with assistance from corpsmen of the Arbuckle Job Corps Center, is now developing recreational facilities in the reservoir area.

Arbuckle Dam, at the confluence of the Buckhorn, Guy Sandy, and Rock Creeks, has a volume of 2,850,000 cubic yards of earthfill material. Its crest height is 140 feet above the streambed of Rock Creek, and its length is 1,890 feet. Normal, or conservation, pool level of the reservoir is 872 feet above sea level, with an area of approximately 2,350 acres. Depth of the lake at the base of the dam is approximately 90 feet.

All land immediately surrounding the lake is owned by the Federal Government and is reserved for use of the public. Private lots or building sites that have direct access to the water are not available.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Boating. Boat-launching is permitted *only* at the three designated ramps. Operators of all boats must comply with Federal and State laws pertaining to registration and operation. Permanent mooring sites are not available, but public courtesy loading and unloading docks are near the boat ramps at The Point and Buckhorn Rock areas. (See map.)

Fishing. You may fish throughout the year at the recreation area. Channel catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, and crappie are native to the lake. Northern pike are stocked but are closed to fishing at the present time. An Oklahoma fishing license is required and all applicable State fishing laws are enforced.

Camping. Temporary campsites with tables, fireplaces, and chemical toilets are at Buckhorn Rock and The Point areas. Drinking water is available at these places. Trailer and camper units are welcome, but there are no hookups or special facilities for them.

Camping on or from boats is limited to 14 days.

Build fires only in fireplaces at designated area. Be sure your campfire is out before you leave it. Be careful with cigarettes and matches.

Picnicking facilities, which include picnic tables, fireplaces, and chemical toilets, are at The Point, Buckhorn Rock, and Guy Sandy. Drinking water is available only at Buckhorn and The Point.

Swimming. There are no developed beaches, but a temporary bathing area has been set aside at The Point.

Water-skiing. As a safety measure, an operator and an observer are required in each boat pulling a skier. Water that is off limits to skiers is posted by markers or signs.

Skindiving is permitted, but a permit, which may be obtained from any park ranger, is required.

Hunting and trapping are permitted in accordance with Federal and State laws except in designated developed and concentrated public-use areas. A map showing sections open and closed to hunting and trapping is available at park headquarters and from park rangers. Closed areas are also posted.

Pets must be under physical control when in developed or concentrated public-use areas. They are not allowed at the swimming area.

Food and lodging, as well as camping, fishing, boating, and other supplies, are available in nearby towns.

COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY AFLOAT

- Do not overload your boat.
- Know the "rules of the road" and the markings of navigational aids.
- Have small children and nonswimmers wear a life jacket at all times while in a boat.
- Keep safety equipment within easy reach and in good working order.
- Be courteous. You can be held legally responsible for damage caused by the wake of your boat.
- Keep an eye on the weather.
- Never swim from an unanchored boat.
- Stop engines and smoking while refueling.
- Wipe up spilled fuel and ventilate engine and fuel compartments before starting motor.
- Stay with the boat if it capsizes—do not try to swim for shore.

ADMINISTRATION

Platt National Park and Arbuckle Recreation Area are administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 201, Sulphur, Okla. 73086, is in immediate charge of both areas.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.



